

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 BIB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1287

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4035

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, XH

SUBJECT: A WORLD COMMUNIST CONFERENCE?

1. SUMMARY. THE CPSU IS KEEPING THE IDEA OF A WORLD COMMUNIST PARTY CONFERENCE (WCPC) ALIVE-- FOR REASONS TOO MURKY TO BE IMMEDIATELY APPARENT. BUT WE SEE LITTLE SUPPORT AT THE MOMENT AMONG THE OTHER PARTIES IN THE MOVEMENT. END SUMMARY.

2. PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW MARCH 14 ENDED ITS RECITATION OF VICTORIES BY VARIOUS "PEACE-LOVING FORCES" THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BY NOTING THAT "WITNESS OF THE UNDOUBTED SUCCESSES OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IS CONFIDENTIAL

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VINCINGLY GIVEN BY THE FACT THAT IN MANY OF ITS POINTS

THE PROGRAM OF ANTI-IMPERIALIST ACTIVITY PROCLAIMED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMUNIST PARTIES IN 1969 HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT".

3. THE IMPLICATION THAT IT IS TIME TO DEVELOP A NEW "ANTI-IMPERIALIST PROGRAM" SEEMS TO US TO BE INTENDED AS A SUBTLE REMINDER TO THE WORLD MOVEMENT THAT BREZHNEV IN HIS SPEECH BEFORE THE PARTY CONGRESS SAID THAT THE CPSU "IN PRINCIPLE SUPPORTS THE IDEA" OF A WORLD CONFERENCE, WHICH, HE CLAIMED, "MANY PARTIES ADVOCATE". A REMINDER IS PERHAPS NECESSARY, FOR IN ALL OF THE REPORTING WE HAVE SEEN IN THE SOVIET PRESS ON THE ALLEGEDLY ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE OF THE WORLD MOVEMENT TO BREZHNEV'S SPEECH, WE DO NOT RECALL HAVING SEEN ANY REFLECTION OF HIS SUPPORT FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE. MOREOVER, WE NOTE THAT AMONG THE TWENTY OR SO MORE IMPORTANT FOREIGN SPEAKERS AT THE PARTY CONGRESS, ONLY HONECKER UNAMBIGUOUSLY CALLED FOR A WORLD CONFERENCE, THOUGH BOTH GIEREK AND KADAR EXPRESSED GENERAL SUPPORT FOR THE CONCEPT OF SUCH MEETINGS.

4. IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE CPSU IS BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE ON THIS ISSUE, FOR IT CANNOT AFFORD TO GET AHEAD OF THE OTHER PARTIES IN ITS ADVOCACY OF A WORLD CONFERENCE, AND YET AT THE SAME TIME NONE OF THE OTHER PARTIES--AS YET--ARE OUT IN FRONT ON THE ISSUE FAR ENOUGH FOR THE CPSU TO FALL MODESTLY IN LINE AND AVOID THE KIND OF OVERT SPONSORSHIP WHICH WOULD DOOM THE PROJECT TO FAILURE.

5. THE KREMLIN PRESUMABLY HAS ITS OWN MRUKY REASONS FOR KEEPING A WORLD CONFERENCE AFLOAT. ITS PRESENT DIFFICULTIES IN ATTEMPTING TO ARRANGE A REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON A MUCH NARROWER SCALE WOULD SEEM TO GIVE IT REASON TO BE WARY OF AN EVEN MORE COMPLEX UNDERTAKING. BUT A WORLD CONFERENCE COULD ALSO SERVE THE CPSU AS A CONCEPTUAL ALTERNATIVE TO THE EUROPEAN CONFERENCE, TO BE WARMED UP IN CASE THE LATTER DOES NOT COME OFF OR PRODUCES SUCH ANEMIC DOCUMENTS THAT IT IS EQUIVALENT TO FAILURE FROM THE CPSU POINT OF VIEW. WCPC WOULD NOT BE THE FIRST

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EXAMPLE OF A SOP OR FALLBACK IN CPSU ANNALS.
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